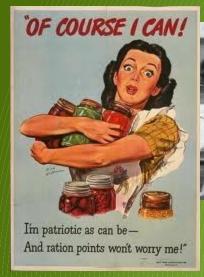


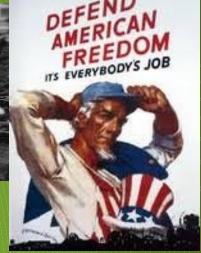
## INTRODUCTION

- Who am I?
- Why am I here?



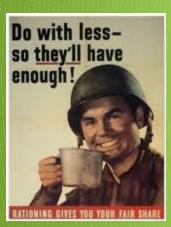






### Patriotism during WWII









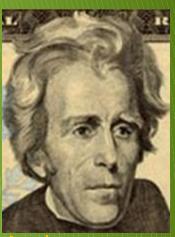


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# 30th Infantry Division

- What do all these numbers mean?
- Nicknamed "Old Hickory" unit
- National Guard division from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee
- The German enemies referred to them as Roosevelt's SS Troops because of the consistent and terrific pressure the 30th Infantry division brought on Hitler's elite SS division.



Andrew lackson

D-Day: June 6, 1944



- D-Day was when the Allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy and began the effort to liberate Europe from the Nazi occupation.
- It would be up to units like the 30th Infantry Division to move further into France.



# Mortain, France and Hill 314

- The 1<sup>st</sup> Division reached Mortain, France.
- The U.S. forces HAD to get to Hill 314
- Why do hills have names during wartime?
- Why are hills so important?
  Hill con cou

# The 30th Infantry Division gets their orders

 On August 5, 1944, the 30<sup>th</sup> was ordered to relieve the 1<sup>st</sup> Division at Mortain ASAP because the 1<sup>st</sup> Division had to move elsewhere.

• So...in goes the 30<sup>th</sup>....

SURROUNDED

 On Hill 314, a single battalion (roughly 950 Soldiers) of 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Soldiers were completely surrounded by German

 These brave Soldiers held off the attack for SIX days.

General Eisenhower himself ordere







# So what happened?

 The Battle of Mortain is considered to be the beginning of the end for the German Army and o

> cant ar II.



### BE PROUD OF YOUR STATE

- At the end of the war, Eisenhower asked his staff to evaluate the numerous divisions during the war and their contributions to the success of our mission
- The 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was selected #1.











#### **Dear General Hobbs** - 16 March 1946

I was historian of the ETO. General Eisenhower instructed me to draw up a rating sheet on the divisions. This entailed going over the total work of all the more experienced divisions, infantry and armor and report back to him which divisions had performed the most efficient and consistent battle services (this would aid him to recommend which divisions would be put up for division presidential unit citations). We named certain infantry divisions in the first category, the same with armor and we placed others in a second category and yet others in a third category.

The 30th was among five (5) divisions in the first category. We picked the 30th **Division Number One (1) in the first** category divisions. It was the "combined judgment of the 35 historical officers" who had worked on the records and in the field that the 30th had merited this distinction. It was our finding that the 30th had been outstanding in three operations and that we could consistently recommend it for citation on any one of these three occasions. It was further found that it had in no single instance performed discreditably or weakly when considered against the averages of the Theater and that in no single operation had it carried less than its share of the burden or looked bad when compared with the forces on its flanks.

### DIVISIONS RECOMMENDED BY THIS HEADQUARTERS FOR CITATION

1st Infantry Division: Capture of Aachen
2d Armored Division: St Lo Breakthrough
3d Armored Division: Exploitation of Remagen Bridgehead
and encirclement of Ruhr pocket
5th Infantry Division: Breaching of Siegfried Line
2d Infantry Division: Firm stand at Monschau in Ardennes
90th Infantry Division: Reduction of Metz Fortress
29th Infantry Division: Drive from Siegfried Line to Roer River

1. Prior to his departure from this Theater in November 1945, General Eisenhower gave his tentative approval to recommendations that the foregoing divisions be cited. This was the result of a two hour conference with the following:

General Bull
General Bevans
Colonel S. L. A. Marshal, Theater Historian
Colonel J. L. Ames, Jr., C-l Awards and Decorations
Major W. D. Neale, G-l Awards and Decorations

- 2. The conference was the result of a review by G-1, G-3 and the Theater Historian of such recommendations as had been received in this headquarters. No overall review of the operations of each of the Divisions engaged in the Theater was made, but during the conference the Theater Historian appraised the record of divisions that had distinguished themselves sufficiently to warrant consideration. His comments, subsequently reduced to writing were as follows:
  - "l. It is the concensus of the officer historiams of the Theater based upon their research work of the past eighteen months, that the Divisions which have distinguished themselves for overall service within the Theater may be properly grouped in two categories.
  - 2. In the first category are those divisions whose performance has been consistently strong and meritorious and in particular operations has been outstanding:

30th Infantry Division 1st Infantry Division 5th Infantry Division

3. In the second category are those divisions which have given long, arduous and workmanlike service but have either lacked the luster of those named in the first category or at one

-1- 35



 Six men from the 30<sup>th</sup> received the Congressional Medal of Honor which

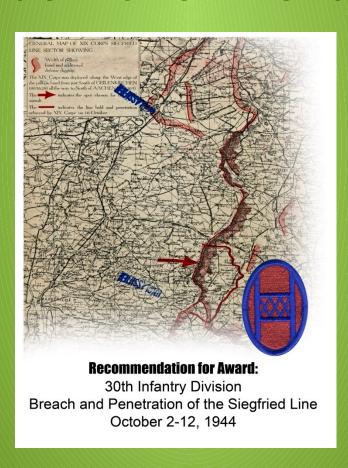
is the highest combat deco

Monument on Hill 314



### Legacy of the 30th Infantry Division

### Presidential Unit Citation



SIAM/cjm/WAG 3766

Theater Historian. Colonel, G.S.C.

#### Presidential Citation for the 30th Infantry Division

Chief. Theater 6 Nov Special Historian 1945 Activities Branch, Special Activities & Morale Group. USFET (Main)

Examination of all historical documents available to the Theater Historian, covering the 30th Infantry Division and all other divisions associated with it in the operation under study, supports the conclusion that during the period from 2 - 12 October 1944 the 30th Division made the main effort in the drive of XIX Corps through the Siegfried Line and that this divisional effort was successful and commendable in p-detail and careful preparation. This was of

of casualties was due in large measure to its highly skilled gue grove 2. pe The urgent necessity of XIX Eorps making a quick juncture with VII Corps for the purpose of closing the AACHEN GAP had become a matter of supreme importance. The Siegfried Line attack was a crucial actions the Tine had to be penetrated before encirclement of AACHEN could pe combjered miliar with its task but every individ

preparation. In the final operation not only was each rem emonde of In its tactical planning and execution as well as in its ability to meet and combat unforeseen contingencies, superior injative, courage and tenacity were displayed at all levels of the Division. The enemy held a carefully prepared line with good quality troops in numerical strength approximating that of the attackers. These troops were under orders to hold and defend at all costs. Despite the determined character of this resistance and despite the continuation of weather which greatly curtailed air support, the penetration of the Siegfried Line was successfully carried out by 30th Infantry Division, The Division withstood repeated counter-attacks by first line enemy troops, including elements of the German 108th Panzer Brigade and first SS Panzer Division. It secured its objectives and inflicted casualties upon the enemy which greatly exceeded its own lesses. LINING Mole

Minth on the left and the 35th on the right during the The Theater Historian therefore recommends favorable consideration for the 30th Infantry Division for a Presidential Unit Citation in the operation and period under study .... However, the Historian cannot forebear to add that the high clan, the general tactical efficiency coupled with a high and proper regard for the principle of the conservation of force and the supreme confidence in all ranks which characterised the Division in the operati under study is likewise characteristic of its overall service during operations in this Theater. While it would be invidious to make any comparisons between Divisions for the period of total service within the Theater until there is a comprehensive and knowledgeable survey of all divisions, the present records will sustain the conclusion that at every stage of operation this division performed with any who were associated with it either in equal or superior manner.

associated with it either in equal or superior manner. stage of operation this division performed with any who wer present records will sustain the conclusion that at every comprehensive and knowledgeable survey of all divisions, th

From several of its other operations within the Theater the Division could have presented, without departing from the fact, a brief showing sufficient reason why it should be put forward for a Presidential Unit Citation. Had this been done the Division's paper would have been supported from this office as its claims to superior performance are fully substantiated by the records and by the comprehensive operational studies organised within this office. In July 1914 its contribution to allied victory was marked during operation Cobra . Beginning on 7 July the 30th Division secured the important Vire River Bridgehead and then drove South through a narrow sector, operating in advance of the Minth on the left and the 35th on the right during the greater part of this period so that It's flanks were exposed. It fought effectively and well through its thankless sector erasing the enemy salient west of the Vire and securing important ground in the Gobra "Pay Dirt" area. Too, the 30th Division was hit by the Panzer Lehr attack which struck the 9th Division on 11 July. Its left becoming engaged by one prong of this enemy operation of The Division mopped up on its left while continuing its attack on the rest of its front . Much later in the course of the war the 30th Division and the 79th Infantry Division on 24 March 1915 made the assault crossing of the Rhine in the Ninth Army Zone. Neither Division encountered great resistance on the East bank; the enemy troops which engaged were not first class and excellent preparations had been made by both American Divisions. In the case of the 30th Division a fair amount of time had been spent in detailed planning and preparation. In the final operation not only was each Combat Team familiar with its task but every individual had studied the point on the Fast bank here he would disembark, his route of advance to the city which his unit was assigned to capture and the block of buildings which his squad was to seize. The action was executed as planned and there can be no doubt that the Division's small number of casualties was due in large measure to its highly skilled planning and careful preparation. This was of a pece with what bad come to be expected of this Division - - - always steady and not infrequently brilliant performance, conserve ative of its own force and always fully hurtful to the enemy.

ofusion that during the period from Based on the historical records of the Theater the Theater Historian would support a citation for the 30th Special Historian 1945 Chief, Theater 6 Nov

Division for its everall work in the Theater of the 10th

Presidential Citation for the Dely InwasHalf Styleon Colonel, G.S.C. Theater Historian.

SIAM/cjm/WAG 3766

(Main)

Group,

& Morale

Branch,

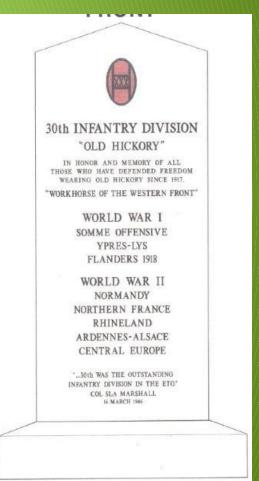
Activities

Activities

-1-

### Monument at the National Infantry Museum in Fort Benning, Georgia Being dedicated 02 June 2013





### **Questions?**

